Memorandum for the File

I telephoned John Carlisle, Chief Investigator, Attorney General's Office, State of Tennessee, on September 20, 1976. Mr. Carlisle indicated the AG had given him the ok to give me the information which I previously requested. He further stated that he had found a report containing the information. He summarized the report as follows:

Police Officer Edward Redditt was assigned to the Community Relations Division until sometime in February, 1968 when he was pulled off and put on a surveillance detail with respect to the sanitation workers. During February and March Redditt received several threats on his life. On April 3, 1968, he was assigned to keep Dr. King under surveillance. He went to the International Airport, along with several other officers, to meet Dr. King. Dr. King and his aides did not request any security.

While waiting at the airport a Mrs. Thomas Matthews, who was acting as chauffeur for Dr. King, pointed her finger at Redditt and said she was going to get him. Later, Mrs. Matthews informed another police officer that they "did not desire a police escort." Mr. Carlisle said this quote came from Lt. Davis.

Mr. Carlisle stated the report indicated that Mrs. Matthews was interviewed on April 11, 1968, at which time she confirmed the fact that Dr. King did not desire a police escort, but no mention was made of a threat on officer Redditt's life.

I informed Mr. Carlisle that the particular threat that I was concerned with was from an out-of-town source and resulted in Redditt being relieved from duty. Mr. Carlisle agreed to continue searching the records for this particular report and suggested that I call him on Wednesday, September 22, 1976.

James F. Walker
JAMES F. WALKER
Attorney, Department of Justice

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